



News

Office of the Fire Chief Timothy M. Butler

645 Randolph Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

August 20, 2014

WEEKLY SAINT PAUL FIRE & EMS BLOTTER

Contact: Fire Marshal Steve Zaccard
651-315-5689

For Immediate Release

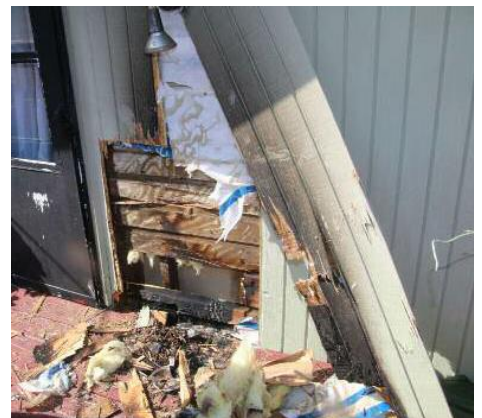
This feature we call "Fire & EMS Blotter" is a weekly update of the activities of the Saint Paul Fire Department. During the week of August 13 thru August 19, the Saint Paul Fire Department responded to 770 calls for service. Here is a **sampling** of some of the emergency and non-emergency activities from information provided by the fire department.

ARSON - On August 13 at 2:05 p.m. on the 200 block of Kellogg Blvd. Police and fire were called after an adult male acting unruly and causing problems locked himself in the bathroom of an Amtrak train. He then set a paper towel and clothing on fire in the bathroom. Employees extinguished it with a dry Chemical extinguisher. He was arrested. The fire was confined to the bathroom. Damage is estimated at \$250.

GUN SHOT WOUND - On August 13 at 5:34 p.m. on the 500 block of Minnehaha Avenue West a 26 year old man was shot multiple times. He had walked home after the assault. Paramedics treated and transported him to a nearby hospital.

GARAGE FIRE - On August 13 at 2:17 p.m. on the 100 block of Hamline Avenue North fire companies extinguished a fire that was accidentally set by the occupants visiting son who was trying to clean the garage and also burning paper in a portable fireplace about 8 feet from the garage service door. Damage is estimated at \$17,000.

CARELESSLY DISCARDED CIGARETTES - On August 13 at 12:39 p.m. on the 800 block of Sherwood Avenue fire companies were dispatched to a smoldering deck fire. The owner's girlfriend had been smoking 2 hours prior to the fire and placed the cigarette in a 5 gallon plastic container used for cigarette butts. The cigarette butts ignited and ignited the plastic container that then spread to the deck and house wall. Damage is estimated at \$4,000.



CAVE RESCUE - On August 17 at 12:41 a.m. a young man was rescued from a cave in the bluffs of Water Street west of the High Bridge. Crews responded to the area, but not knowing which one of the multiple caves/mines this person was in made the rescue difficult.

After receiving more information and a map from the Parks department, Firefighters began to focus on a smaller area until they could find the vent opening to the cave. Entry teams were set up with proper rigging and safety precautions in place, then they were lowered into the cave where they first made verbal contact with the 19 year old victim. He was then safely extricated from the cave.



Firefighters worked in the dark on hazardous terrain to find and rescue a 19 year old man who became trapped in a "cave" 200 feet up the bluff above Water St.

Without having a positive confirmation that no one else was trapped, Firefighters continued searching the entire tunnel, which was found to have elevated levels of carbon monoxide from a campfire. This took approximately another 90 minutes to complete the search. Once determined that the cave/mine was clear, search and rescue operations were completed. Paramedics transported the victim to a nearby hospital where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries and released.

- **During the past two decades, five teenagers have been killed by carbon monoxide in two cave rescues.**
- **People must stay out of these caves. They are DANGEROUS and DEADLY.**
- **NEVER start a fire in a confined space like a cave or tunnel. The carbon monoxide, known as the "Silent Killer" will kill you.**